

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board  
Harbor Management Commission  
Minutes - Thursday, August 28, 2014

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 6:30 p.m. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Bill Derech, Jr., Jordan Dikergoros, Bill Leonard, Rich Lepore, Tom Mull and Dan Silbo. Also present was Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation and Acting Deputy Harbormaster Charlie Viani.

Chairperson Ragonese welcomed new members Bill Derech, Jr., and Dan Silbo to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Harbor Management Commission. He noted that Dan Silbo was a board member from previous years and was returning to serve again.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – June 26, 2014.

Bill Leonard moved to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Rich Lepore and approved unanimously. No minutes for July 24, 2014 meeting, it was cancelled due to no quorum.

C. Monthly Report – June and July 2014.

The Monthly Reports were reviewed by board members. They discussed the upcoming Cornfest on the Broad Street Green sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the Dog Swim in August at Mill Woods Pond and the pool closings at Willard and Mill Woods in August. Mr. Leonard asked for more info on the Roaring Thunder Motorcycle Ride. Ms. Bagley explained that this event is a fundraiser for Wethersfield Special Olympics and motorcycle riders have a route around the area and end up back at a place for lunch and door prizes.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Advisory Parks and Recreation Board/Harbor Management Commission membership list.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the new list with all members and thanked the new members for serving on the Board.

2. Email from Steve Randall.

Ms. Bagley reported that she received an email from Mr. Randall complimenting the town on removing the concrete curbs from the Cove Boat Launch parking area and the fence surrounding the upper pond at Mill Woods Park. He noted that both locations looked a lot better without the curbs or fence.

E. Old Business.

1. Registration Numbers for Summer Programs.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to provide information on the summer programs. She reported that overall the summer programs were very successful. Camp attendance had increased from the previous summer and the Nature Center had 425 children registered for their Nature Camp and 221 children registered for their Eco Camp. Children registered for swim lessons was 766 and 661 families purchased a pool pass. The adult fitness classes were very popular.

F. New Business.

1. Ms. Bagley reported that a volunteer group composed of four churches in town had a workday in Mill Woods Park on August 30. They painted buildings, cleared brush around the pond, completed landscaping projects, and provided carpentry work at the Nature Center and a new overhead door for the garage. This volunteer group did a tremendous job in the park. Ms. Bagley explained that the clearing of brush around the pond adjacent to the picnic area looks great. The town took down the fence by the upper pond adjacent to the road that goes back to the fireplace and the volunteers cleared the area. The town will now close off the road and turn it into a walking/biking path per the park master plan.

Ms. Bagley reported that the town will be paving all the paved parking lots and roads in the park at the end of September or beginning of October. Board members asked that a review of the Park Master Plan be on the agenda for the next meeting. Chairperson Ragonese will place this item on the September agenda.

G. Board Member Comments.

Tom Mull reported that the Men's Softball League had 10 teams entered in their softball tournament. The tournament was successful and the profits generated will go into a fund in memory of a softball player in town.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Cove Docks Project.

The engineering firm of Ocean & Coastal is working on the final design and bid specifications. Board members discussed the condition of the current ramp at the facility. They had received some information that the ramp needed some repairs. Ms. Bagley will ask the engineering staff to inspect the ramp.

2. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese went over the Harbormaster report. The Harbormaster is still looking to fill the Deputy Harbormaster position. Acting Deputy Harbormaster Charlie Viani reported that he received a call from the staff on the safety boat for the work at Putnam Bridge. The staff informed him that vandals were setting their boat adrift and they were exploring other locations to tie the boat up at night. He gave them some suggestions and they were going to follow up with that information.

3. Harbormaster Boat.

Chairperson Ragonese discussed the condition of the boat with members. They reviewed Harbormaster, Charlie Forsdick's report on the boat, its history, how it is used and what the current and future needs are for the boat. Charlie Viani explained that the boat is needed to inspect moorings, patrol the cove and Wethersfield portion of the river and make sure the channel stays clear. He noted that the boat and motor have been repaired numerous times. A motion was made by Jordan Dikergoros and seconded by Dan Silbo that the Harbor Management Commission approve and support the requisition for a new or used Harbor Patrol Boat submitted by the Harbormaster, and that the Commission forward the requisition to the Town Manager and the Town Council for action, with the recommendation that the new or used boat be purchased for use in the spring of 2015. Further discussion ensued on this matter. Chairperson Ragonese had to leave the meeting at this time. Ms. Bagley reported that she found a survey on line that was done in 2009 and asked harbormasters if they use a boat they own or one owned by the town when doing their duties. Seven harbormasters from the Connecticut shore or on the Connecticut River replied that they use a personal boat. Ms. Bagley explained that the town has priorities in their budget and generally a boat for the Cove would not be a high priority. Acting Chairperson Rich Lepore called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Bagley will let Chairperson Ragonese know the outcome of the vote and discuss the next steps of notifying the Town Manager and Town Council of this recommendation from the Commission.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Bill Leonard moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30p.m. Motion was seconded by Jordan Dikergoros and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department